
Bagram News Express



Fighting Terror, Building Peace

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Air Force Pave Hawks integrate with Army Apaches for mission enhancement

By Staff Sgt. Rachel Martinez
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Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — With the military becoming an increasingly joint environment, a group of Airmen and Soldiers here took integration one step further with rotary wing aviation operations in Afghanistan.

While the Army AH-64 Apache and Air Force HH-60 Pave Hawk have flown medical evacuation missions together for some time now in Afghanistan, on Sept. 25 they flew their first joint combat search and rescue training mission.

“The idea is that if (we’re given) a mission where the threat level is such that we need the support of the Apaches, we would

be prepared,” said Lt. Col. John Trumpfheller, 33rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron commander. “It allows us to be more effective and more successful at doing combat search and rescue missions.”

Before the training missions could be flown, months of planning and deliberation had to take place.

“We’ve done all the planning, we sat down and briefed and talked through a dry run,” said Trumpfheller. “Our flight leads went out and briefed with the (Army) warrant officers and got a familiarization flight in the simulator.”

Taking a crawl, walk, run approach to the integration, the aircrews were finally prepared to fly a training mission.

“The intent of the flight is to validate standard operating procedures for the HH-60 and AH-



Senior Airman Chris Bridges, a HH-60 Pave Hawk gunner for the 33rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron, scans the horizon for any threats during a combat search and rescue mission near Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, Sept. 25.

64 to operate together,” said Trumpfheller. “We are practicing recovering isolated personnel while the Apache suppresses any threat in and around the isolated personnel.”

Two .50-caliber machine guns provide the Pave Hawk with fire power, but integrating operations with the Apaches provides even more coverage. The Apache is equipped with HELLFIRE missiles, 2.75" rockets and a 30 millimeter chain gun.

“While we have our own guns, we are coordinating who covers what areas and how we are going to employ weapons from both,” explained Trumpfheller.

With the first training mission complete, Pave Hawk and Apache



U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Rachel Martinez.

A HH-60 Pave Hawk conducts combat search and rescue training mission near Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, Sept. 25.

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aircrews are taking any lessons learned and preparing for their next joint training mission.

“The first mission went smoothly,” said Capt. Tom Harley, a Pave Hawk pilot with the 33rd ERQS. “This says a lot of the joint training and joint publications. Practicing these joint techniques, tactics and procedures should provide for further alert coverage in higher threat environments.”

“It’s well worth the time spent on coordination - it’s really a necessity,” added Chief Warrant Officer Michael Nelson, an Apache pilot assigned to Task Force Shadow. “It’s better that we practice this now before we have to do a real operation.”

As training continues between the Pave Hawk and Apaches, both aircrews are looking forward to further integrating the combat search and rescue mission in Afghanistan.

Football: Air Force hosts service academy rival Navy

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. (AFNS) — The U.S. Air Force Academy football team takes on rival U.S. Naval Academy at 2 p.m. MDT Oct. 4 in Falcon Stadium here. *AFN Xtra will air the game live, with kickoff at 12:30 a.m. local time Sunday morning on Bagram.*

The Falcons are coming off an open date following a 30-23 loss at home to Utah Sept. 20, and the Navy enters the game following a 24-17 win at No. 15 Wake Forest.

The Air Force holds a 3-1 record, 1-1 in the Mountain West Conference under head coach Troy Calhoun.

Air Force, Army and Navy compete each year for the Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy, which is emblematic of service academy football supremacy. The trophy goes annually to the winning academy with the best record in round-robin competition. The president presents the trophy to the seniors from the winning team each year at a ceremony at the White House. The 2008 season marks the 37th year of trophy competition.

Air Force has a 46-25-0 all-time CIC record and has won 16 trophy titles. Air Force’s overall record and number of trophy titles are best among the three academies. Air Force finished second in the 2007 CIC Trophy chase after its 31-20 loss at Navy Sept. 29 and 30-10 win vs. Army Nov. 3. Navy won the trophy for the fifth consecutive year by beating both Air Force and Army.



Around Afghanistan



U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Samuel Morse

Above: A humvee crosses a river in Afghanistan. A few of the dismounted Airmen temporarily ride on top of the humvee to keep their boots dry.

Left: Small children stop to look at the commotion in an Afghan village. The presence of the Airmen drew out most of the village out of curiosity.

Airmen help heal the wounded with food, smiles

By Staff Sgt. Rachel Martinez

455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — For many people, food can be a comfort. The staff at the nutritional medicine flight at the Craig Joint Theater Hospital believes it can also be healing.

“Food brings a smile to everyone’s face,” said Capt. Jennifer Bradley, nutritional medicine flight chief. “Just bringing a smile on a person’s face can do wonders for a person’s healing.”

Doing their part to help the healing, the five Airmen assigned to the nutritional medicine flight serve approximately 1,700 meals a week to the patients and staff at the hospital.

While the food comes from a military contractor, the staff is responsible for accommodating any dietary needs and preparing supplemental items such as gelatin and protein-packed combat shakes. They also create home recipes for patients requiring tube feeding. While the focus is on patient meals, the nutritional medicine staff also prepares meals for the rest of the hospital staff who are unable to leave the hospital.

“We are providing a basic need,” said Master Sgt. Ken Pagano, NCO in charge of nutritional medicine. “In a deployed environment it’s realized even more how important that is.

“That cup of coffee is that much more important in the morning,” Pagano continued. “I’ve had surgeons thank me for the services we are providing. If I did something that helped that surgeon, then I’m



Senior Airman Shamika McNair, a diet therapy technician deployed from Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., hands a banana to a guardian, someone assigned to watch over Afghan patients, at the Craig Joint Theater Hospital here, Sept. 29.



U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Rachel Martinez

Staff Sgt. Tiffany Arnold, a member of the nutritional medicine flight, plays with Nazi, a young Afghan patient at the Craig Joint Theater Hospital here Sept. 29.

making it happen. It’s extremely rewarding.”

The reward comes in giving the staff, and particularly the patients, what they want, said Bradley.

“The Afghans love American junk food, bananas and apples,” she said. “Going through, talking to the patients and giving them the food they want to eat is rewarding.”

The job doesn’t come without its challenges, however.

“We are in a hospital, but we are food service,” said Pagano. “The in-your-face reality of trauma and injuries - we’re not used to that.”

Meal service is only one part of what the nutritional medicine staff does. They also offer outpatient services such as weight loss and tobacco cessation counseling. Unofficially, the staff aims to boost morale for both patients and staff by offering their diner as a morale room. They hold weekly movie nights and recently hosted a card game night. The staff takes the most joy in boosting the morale of the young Afghan patients however.

“We walk the patients around and get them outside,” said Bradley. “Just the other day we took the kids outside and played catch with them. They had such a good time and were all smiles.”

The medical staff of the Craig Joint Theater Hospital provides quality care, but it is the little things like a hot meal and a smile from the nutritional medicine staff that elevate the care to the next level.

Services Info

- ◆ First Run Movies: Sunday, Wednesday and Friday at 1000L and 1500L.
- ◆ Capoeira/Brazilian Martial Arts: Sunday from 2000L to 2200L and Tuesday from 1630L to 1830L.
- ◆ Abs Workout: Monday through Friday at 1215L.
- ◆ Salsa: Monday from 2030L to 2230L.
- ◆ Texas Hold'em: Tuesday at 1900L, Thursday at 1330L, and Saturday at 1330L and 1900L.
- ◆ Dominoes: Tuesday at 2100L
- ◆ Reggae Night: Wednesday from 2000L to 2300L.
- ◆ Spades: Thursday at 1800L.
- ◆ Blackjack: Thursday at 2100L.
- ◆ Bingo: Friday at 1900L.
- ◆ Hip Hop/R&B Night: Friday at 2030L.

Hometown News

Airmen who are deploying or redeploying can "get the word out" about notable events related to their service via the Hometown News Program. The process is easy - simply fill out, sign and return the Hometown News Release form found on the Bagram home page to Public Affairs and PA will market these events to local media. Some examples of events include: award of Afghanistan Campaign Medal, NATO Medal, arrival for deployment, completion of deployment, etc. For more information, call public affairs at 431-3260.

News Briefs

RESTRICTED AREA ESCORT TRAINING

If you are a holder of an Air Force Restricted Area Badge that has an open area with a number in it and or a letter E you are asked to attend a training session in order to receive an escort official competency card. Training classes are being held Monday through Friday each week throughout October from 0800 to 0900 at the Enduring Faith Chapel Annex. All personnel departing Bagram by Oct. 31 are exempt from the class. Beginning Nov. 1 ESFS Restricted Area Entry Controllers will be checking for your Escort Certification/Competency Card, which is provided to escorts after training. If you have not attended the class by then, your flight line escort privileges will be revoked until you get the required training and card. Questions can be directed to Pass and ID at 431-2232.

COMBAT PUSH HOURS

Combat Push times are Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the Camp Cunningham Rec Tent from 0900L/0430Z to 1000L/0530Z and from 2230L/1800Z to 2330L/1900Z.

Services, Comm and PERSCO will be available to sign outprocessing checklists. Personnel must complete their Post Deployment Health Questionnaire online and pick up their medical records at Flight Medicine/Public Health before coming to Combat Push. For more information call 431-4409.

EAGLECASH

All deployed personnel (military, civilian and contractors) utilizing Air Force finance office services within the USCENTCOMAOR are required to have an EagleCash Stored Value Card and highly encouraged to use it. Additionally, the Bagram Finance Office has set-up a full-service EagleCash Card Center at the Friday Bagram Bazaar for your use and convenience. The Center has an EagleCash kiosk and a cashier to sign-up new card applicants and to exchange a check for uploaded EagleCash funds. Please sign-up for your EagleCash Card today.

COMBAT O

Combat Orientation is Thursday at 0930Z/1400L at the Enduring Freedom Chapel. This is a mandatory briefing for all Air Force personnel assigned to Bagram Air

Field. Newcomers must attend the briefing within two week of their arrival. Accountability is tracked and will be forwarded to the 1st Sergeants at the end of the Week.

ATTENTION ALL JUNIOR NCOS

The Bagram AF Route 5/6 meets Thursdays at 1800L/1330Z at Camp Cunningham's Town Hall. The meetings are open to all staff sergeant selects, staff sergeants and tech sergeants. Contact Tech Sgt. Stephen DeWeese, 431-3212 or Tech Sgt. Charles Heywood, 431-2820 for more information.

LAUNDRY CLAIMS

If something is damaged or missing from your laundry contact 455 EMSS/SVS as soon as possible. KBR has 14 days to locate your missing items, if after 14 days they do not locate your goods, KBR is liable for your lost items. Liability will not exceed AAFES pricing, regardless of name brand. KBR is not liable for any loss or damage due to your own negligence. This includes, but is not limited to loss due to improper categorization, damage due to your items bleeding onto each other.